United Nations A/RES/57/113 A-B

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 21 (*d*) and 37

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.56 and Add.1)*]

57/113. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/220 A of 21 December 2001 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1378 (2001) of 14 November 2001, 1383 (2001) of 6 December 2001, 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001, 1390 (2002) of 16 January 2002, 1401 (2002) of 28 March 2002 and 1419 (2002) of 26 June 2002,

Welcoming the recent initiative of the President of the General Assembly to hold a panel discussion on Afghanistan,[1]

Reaffirming its continued strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Reaffirming its condemnation of the use of Afghan territory for terrorist activities and the exporting of international terrorism from Afghanistan, and welcoming the ongoing successful efforts of the Afghan people and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition to combat terrorism on their territory,

Convinced that the main responsibility for finding a political solution lies with the Afghan people themselves, and reaffirming therefore its continued support for the implementation of the provisions of the agreement reached among various

[1] See resolution 57/8.

Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[2] including the holding of free and fair elections for a representative government in 2004,

Convinced also that political consolidation aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic, fully representative and gender-sensitive government, which respects the human rights of all Afghans and the international obligations of Afghanistan and is committed to peace with all countries, can lead to durable peace and reconciliation,

Welcoming the successful convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, held from 11 to 19 June 2002, the election of President Hamid Karzai as head of State, by secret ballot, and the establishment of the Transitional Authority, and expressing its full support for President Karzai and the Transitional Authority,

Welcoming also the establishment of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Judicial Commission, and recognizing that a functioning justice system and the accountability of perpetrators of grave human rights violations are key factors in ensuring reconciliation and stability and that the ongoing difficult humanitarian situation and the ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan remain a grave concern,

Taking note of the positive developments in Afghanistan in recent months, in particular the return of a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, the progress in implementing education and health programmes, the establishment of the commissions mandated under the Bonn Agreement and the introduction of the new currency,

Expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Afghanistan and the staff of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan,

Reiterating that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country and its institutions, as well as in efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, provide for rehabilitation and reconstruction and facilitate the orderly return of refugees,

Recognizing the need for continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programmes, under the ownership of the Transitional Authority, of rehabilitation and reconstruction, and noting that visible progress in this regard can further enhance the authority of the central government and greatly contribute to the peace process,

Commending the international efforts to help the Transitional Authority to provide a secure environment in Afghanistan, and stressing the need for a coordinated approach across all parts of the security sector and the importance of a national army and police force that are ethnically balanced, professional and accountable to legitimate civilian authorities,

Welcoming in this regard the important role played by the International Security Assistance Force and its respective lead nations in improving security conditions in and around Kabul,

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[2] Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (see S/2001/1154).

Noting that, despite improvements in the security sector, the lack of security remains the most serious challenge facing Afghanistan and Afghans today, expressing its deep concern at a number of recent security incidents in Afghanistan, in particular the assassination attempt against President Karzai, noting the necessity of enhancing the capacity of the Transitional Authority to exercise its authority nationwide, and commending the steps already taken in that regard,

Deeply disturbed by the increase in the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, which has dangerous repercussions in the region and far beyond, and welcoming, in this context, the commitment of the Transitional Authority to rid Afghanistan of this pernicious production and trade,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Stresses* that the fragile situation in Afghanistan poses a continuing risk to peace and stability in the region, and expresses its determination to assist the efforts of the Transitional Authority to prevent the use of Afghan territory for international terrorism;

3. *Reiterates its strong support* for the Transitional Authority in the full implementation of the Bonn Agreement,[2] and endorses its priorities, as presented in the National Development Framework and in its budget, which are the restoration of the economic infrastructure; the strengthening of the central government; the building of a national army and police force under civilian control; demobilization/reintegration, as well as demining activities; the rebuilding of the justice system; respect for human rights; and combating illicit drug production and trafficking;

4. *Calls upon* all Afghan groups to renounce the use of violence, respect human rights, adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law, respect the authority of the Transitional Authority and implement fully the provisions of the Bonn Agreement, culminating in a constitutional loya jirga and national elections in 2004;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in political, economic, cultural and social life throughout the country, and calls upon the Transitional Authority to protect and promote the equal rights of men and women;

6. *Commends and strongly supports* the important role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the staff of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in support of efforts of the Transitional Authority to fully implement the Bonn Agreement, and endorses the concept of the Assistance Mission as a fully integrated Mission under the authority of the Special Representative and with a light international footprint;

7. *Supports* the efforts of groups of interested States and international organizations, underlines the importance of ensuring complementarity among these efforts, and calls upon all parties to coordinate closely with the Special Representative;

8. *Calls upon* donor countries that pledged financial aid at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002, to fulfil their assumed commitments promptly, and also calls upon

[3] A/57/487-S/2002/1173.

all Member States to provide humanitarian assistance and to support the Transitional Authority, including through the provision of direct budgetary support as well as through long-term assistance for the economic and social reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, especially in the provinces, based on the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002;

9. *Calls* for continued international assistance to the vast number of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration into society so as to contribute to the stability of the entire country;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Transitional Authority to respect fully the international obligations of Afghanistan with regard to narcotic drugs, and calls upon it to strengthen further its efforts to eradicate the annual poppy crop;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Transitional Authority in the development and implementation of comprehensive, coordinated programmes aimed at eliminating illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, including through crop substitution programmes and capacity-building for drug control;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-seventh session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

68th plenary meeting
6 December 2002

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/220 B of 21 December 2001 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001[2] and the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

Welcoming the recent initiative of the President of the General Assembly to hold a panel discussion on Afghanistan,[1]

Expressing its grave concern about the continuing effects of decades of conflict in Afghanistan, which has caused massive loss of life, extensive human suffering, destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Mindful that Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and that some parts of its territory continue to be affected by serious drought,

Noting the accession of Afghanistan to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[4]

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, which constitutes a great danger for the civilian population and a major obstacle for the return of refugees and displaced populations and for the resumption of agricultural activities, the provision of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,

Welcoming the positive steps taken so far towards an improvement in the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of many Afghans, in particular women and children, however noting with grave concern that there remain discriminatory practices that hinder the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its deep concern about reports of abuses of human rights and of international humanitarian law in parts of the country, and in this regard reminding the Transitional Authority and all Afghan groups of their commitment to respect human rights in the country, as contained in the Bonn Agreement,

Reiterating the importance of the safety and security of the humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in Afghanistan,

Noting with concern that limited access to certain areas of Afghanistan and inadequate conditions for the delivery of aid threaten the well-being of internally displaced persons and vulnerable sections of the civilian population,

Recognizing that a secure environment is necessary for the safe and effective delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance and is a precondition for rehabilitation, reconstruction efforts and long-term development,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation by the United Nations of the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 in response to continuing humanitarian needs,

Welcoming also the presentation of the National Development Framework and budget by the Transitional Authority as an important coordination concept for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and in this context welcoming also the introduction of the new Afghan currency,

Noting that economic recovery and reconstruction in Afghanistan and the security and improvement of the lives of the Afghan people are interrelated,

Reiterating the importance of a seamless connection between humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and welcoming the important contribution that the integrated approach of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has made in this regard,

Expressing its appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their continued efforts in coordinating, planning and implementing humanitarian and other assistance in cooperation with the Transitional Authority,

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[4]See CD/1478.

Welcoming the return of a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons, while noting with concern that internal displacement remains a widespread phenomenon and that the conditions in certain parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to the safe and sustainable return of a significant number of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, particularly in the northern part of the country,

Acknowledging that those refugees constitute a continuing socio-economic burden for the neighbouring host countries, expressing its gratitude to those countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time once again calling upon all groups to continue to fulfil their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Stresses* that the responsibility for the solution of the humanitarian crisis lies above all with the Afghan people themselves, and urges them to continue their efforts to achieve national reconciliation;

3. *Urges* all Afghan groups to actively support the Transitional Authority in meeting the responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[4] to cooperate fully with the mine action programme coordinated by the United Nations and to effect the destruction of all existing stocks of landmines;

4. *Welcomes* the determination of the Transitional Authority to take the lead in reconstruction efforts, and welcomes the contribution of donors to meet the requirements of the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002, urges them to fulfil promptly the funding commitments made at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, and invites them to provide additional resources beyond those pledged in Tokyo;

5. *Stresses* the coordinating role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan for the United Nations system in ensuring a seamless connection between humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, including the cooperation of the United Nations system with other actors in the international community, in particular with the international financial institutions;

6. *Commends* the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Afghanistan Support Group for the work accomplished, as well as the Implementation Group for coordinating the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and encourages such coordination efforts to continue so as to facilitate the effective and efficient delivery of assistance;

7. *Also commends* the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in supporting the national development budget process, which will play

[5] A/57/410.

an important role in increasing the integration of the programmes of United Nations agencies, their partners and the Transitional Authority;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and the Law and Order Trust Fund as mechanisms for mobilizing international support to Afghanistan;

9. *Encourages* the international community to actively participate and financially contribute to these rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and also encourages the international community to channel assistance through the national development budget of the Afghan Transitional Authority and to focus attention on building the capacity of Afghans;

10. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and intimidation directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and regrets the loss of life and physical harm suffered among the staff;

11. *Urges* the Transitional Authority and local authorities to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel, as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations;

12. *Strongly condemns* continuing discrimination against women and girls as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, wherever such discrimination takes place;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of actively involving all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

14. *Reminds* all Afghan groups of their commitment to the Bonn Agreement,[2] and calls upon them to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Transitional Authority in demobilizing and reintegrating war-affected children and in providing Afghan children with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, and urges all Afghan groups to refrain from the recruitment or use of children contrary to international standards;

16. *Calls upon* the Transitional Authority to facilitate the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law and to bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international law;

17. *Appeals* to the Transitional Authority and the international community to mainstream gender issues into all humanitarian assistance and future rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, and to actively attempt to promote the full and equal participation and benefit to both women and men of those programmes;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, and reminds them of their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees and the right to seek asylum;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to consider providing further assistance in support of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, including for their voluntary and safe return and reintegration;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of neighbouring States hosting United Nations agencies for their cooperation, and calls upon them to continue to facilitate the work of United Nations humanitarian operations on their territory in order to ensure the continued efficient delivery of emergency aid into Afghanistan;

21. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the Transitional Authority and Afghan civil society, all possible humanitarian, financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population;

22. *Calls upon* the international community to respond generously and without delay to the Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 as well as to long-term interventions towards rehabilitation and reconstruction;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-seventh session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

68th plenary meeting
6 December 2002